

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining a measurement uncertainty of a test system comprising:
  - 5 developing a test system model having a plurality of uncertainty terms;  
entering the test system model into a simulator;  
running a sufficient number of iterations of the test system model on the simulator while randomly varying each of a first portion of the plurality of uncertainty terms within probability distributions to produce a statistically significant number of results of a  
10 selected parameter; and  
evaluating the results to determine a measurement uncertainty of the selected parameter.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the simulator uses a harmonic balance  
15 simulation engine to produce the results.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the simulator uses a time-domain simulation engine to produce the results.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the simulator uses a linear S-parameter simulation engine to produce the results.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of uncertainty terms includes a noise term.  
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6. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of uncertainty terms includes a test instrument uncertainty term for a test instrument in the test system.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the test instrument uncertainty term is  
30 selected from the group consisting of a temperature drift uncertainty term, an aging drift uncertainty term, an accuracy uncertainty term, and a repeatability uncertainty term.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the test system model includes a device

under test and the step of running the sufficient number of iterations provides a first frequency to the device under test, and the results of the selected parameter are at a second frequency.

5           9.       The method of claim 8 wherein the second frequency is a harmonic of the first frequency.

          10.       The method of claim 8 wherein the second frequency is a mixing product of the first frequency and a third frequency.

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          11.       The method of claim 1 wherein the test system model includes a test instrument as a device under test.

          12.       The method of claim 1 wherein the test system model includes a test fixture  
15 comprising a plurality of switches and a plurality of cables.

          13.       The method of claim 1 wherein the step of running occurs at a first operating condition and further comprising steps of:

                  running a sufficient number of iterations of the test system model on the  
20 simulator at a second operating condition while randomly varying each of the first portion of the plurality of uncertainty terms within probability distributions to produce a statistically significant number of second results of the selected parameter; and  
                  evaluating the second results to determine a second measurement uncertainty of the selected parameter.

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          14.       The method of claim 1 wherein the step of running is done using a first type of simulation engine and further comprising steps of:

                  running a second sufficient number of iterations of the test system model on the  
simulator using a second type of simulation engine while randomly varying each of the  
30 first portion of the plurality of uncertainty terms within probability distributions to produce a statistically significant number of second results of a second selected parameter;  
                  and  
                  evaluating the second results to determine a second measurement uncertainty of the

second selected parameter.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of  
developing a computer-readable library of test system components with  
5 uncertainty terms, and wherein the step of entering the test system model into the  
simulator includes loading uncertainty terms associated with the test system components  
from the computer-readable library.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of developing the test system  
10 model includes automatically generating system specifications.